

Rules Committee and in debate on the floor of the House of Representatives. And the vision of the Founding Fathers is this, that the best ideas of America get synthesized, they get compressed and encapsulated here through this process that I have described finally being debated and voted upon on the floor of the House of Representatives. And there the vigor of the American people can be presented to the United States Senate for them to cool the coffee in the saucer as opposed to the hotter cup that comes from the House. That is the vision of our Founding Fathers. That is the vision that is being usurped by the policies of our regal Speaker who has undermined our national security.

And I would yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CARTER. We should be very grateful that the Speaker promised us the most open, honest and ethical Congress in the history of the Republic because think how bad it would be if we didn't have that. We wouldn't even be here, would we? It is amazing what promises are made and what promises are broken in this House of Representatives. It is a shame. It is a shame that somebody besides us on the floor of the House, and hopefully some people are watching this, it is a shame, Mr. Speaker, that we are not getting that message out. This is wrong. It is not what the American people sent us here for.

Getting back to our hoax and our indulgences that we are talking about here, I want everybody to know that when Martin Luther hammered that up on the door of the church, he was informing the church that this was wrong to have these indulgences. We need to be pounding one on the front door of this Capitol Building. This is wrong to put this burden on the American people, some of whom really can't afford it, and many of whom are losing their jobs. And to give us a target of 17½ percent unemployment that we can see could come in a much less industrialized nation than we are and what happened there, think what can happen in this Nation.

Mr. KING of Iowa. The President of the United States has said, why can't you learn from Spain?

Mr. CARTER. What we learned from Spain is 17½ percent unemployment. My gosh, back during the Clinton administration they kept saying 6½ percent, 6 percent unemployment was full employment. Well, we have learned that is not true. But there is nobody going to argue 17½ percent unemployment is full employment. We are going to be hurting.

We just spent, as my colleague says, our children and grandchildren and great grandchildren and maybe even for generations never even thought of, we just spent their inheritance just in the first 100 days of the Obama administration. We spent more money than all the history of the Republic put together. And we are wanting to put in a

program that can put almost 20 percent of the American workforce out of work? Isn't this the inmates running the asylum?

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Mr. KING of Iowa. Reclaiming my time.

This sparks a little bit of a number of some data that I produced about not quite a week ago. I have been asking the question, How do you put this global warming in context, Mr. Speaker? And so I begin to ask these basic questions that any environmentalist that was creating the idea of limiting the amount of greenhouse gasses that could be emitted into the atmosphere, when asked this broader question of, well, how big is this atmosphere—I mean, that is like question number one: How big is the atmosphere? And I don't think anybody here knows the answer to that question, Mr. Speaker. And I would ask you this question directly, but I don't want to put you on the spot. I just want you to listen carefully. That is that our atmosphere, the total weight—this is how we measure it in metric tons—the total weight of our atmosphere is 5.150 quadrillion metric tons. That's the pressure of all of this atmosphere that's pushing down on the Earth's gravity. If you could put a scale on all of the surface of the Earth, they would say, Oh, 5.150 quadrillion metric tons. That's all the atmosphere we have.

Now, that's the idea or the content of the volume of our atmosphere.

Then the next question you've got to ask is, well, if you're going to set the Earth's thermostat by controlling the emissions into the atmosphere from the industry of the United States of America, wouldn't you want to know what the net cumulative total of the U.S. industry since the dawn of industrial revolution would actually be?

Well, I asked the question of the energy information agency that we have—and it's their job—and of course they don't have the answer to that because they never asked the second most obvious question. The first one is how big is the atmosphere. The second one is what has the Earth done or what has America done to contribute to the greenhouse gasses, the CO₂ within the atmosphere? The cumulative total contributed by the U.S. industrial giant since 1800 works out to be this: 178,792,900 metric tons of CO₂.

Now, what's that mean to anybody that's paying attention? I'm sure there is somebody out there that's run the calculator and already come to this conclusion. This would be .00347 percent of the overall atmosphere.

Now, what does that mean in terms we can understand? This way, Mr. Speaker. If you would draw a circle that represented the entire volume of the Earth's atmosphere and do it at a 48-inch radius, 8-foot circle—so two 4-by-8 sheets of drywall side to side, circle drawn, full amount, more than my full wingspan here, that's the circle

that you envision, Mr. Speaker. Now, how much of this overall volume of the U.S. atmosphere is the cumulative total of CO₂ contributed by the U.S. industrial might since the dawn of the industrial revolution? That little circle in the middle of that 8-foot circle would be about like that, .56 inches. The diameter of about a buffalo bullet is about all it would be in the center of that 8-foot circle, and that's the cumulative total.

And we are going to reduce the overall U.S. emissions by 20 percent for a while and then 40 percent for a while and 83 percent for a while. And sooner or later, the arrogance and the vanity of America is going to adjust the thermostat of God's green Earth with a ratio of less than half an inch on an 8-foot diameter circle. How could we possibly imagine that could work? Where is Al Gore when I need him to explain this to me?

I will say this. Al Gore, you were wrong on the science. And those of you who are busily marking up in Energy and Commerce a cap-and-tax bill today, tomorrow, the next day, and for eternity, are utterly wrong on the economics. You would handicap America's economy on some myopic idea, some vanity idea that we could control the Earth's temperature, set the thermostat of America by reducing the size of this .56 circle in the middle of the 8-foot diameter. That's what we are dealing with. That's Midwestern common sense. And we're dealing with the utter arrogance of people who believe this rather than the God that created this Earth.

Mr. CARTER. Well, you forgot that there is one other source of CO₂ that we haven't figured out how to tax on it, but I'm sure they're working on it. We've created some today as we've been in here.

I had a lady when I was doing a town-hall meeting. We were talking about energy, and she said, You know, I'm concerned about these emissions because I want my children to be able to breathe clean air. And I said, Do you ever lean over and kiss your kid goodnight? She said, Yeah, I do. I said, Do you realize when you breathe out you're breathing CO₂ into that child's face? She stopped. She said, You know? That is right. I said, You're going to have to stop breathing in the presence of your child.

This gas we're talking about we are all breathing out every breath and all animals are doing the same thing and all plants are loving it because they take it in. And guess what they give back? Oxygen for us. It's crazy. It's really crazy what we're talking about. But that number needs to be added in there. Maybe we should limit ourselves to 30 breaths a minute.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Or allow the miracle of photosynthesis to solve this problem of mothers kissing their children goodnight.

I will yield to the other judge from Texas, Mr. GOHMERT.